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James R. Miner (Reg. No. 40,444)

703-714-7449

MESSAGEAttached please find the following regarding **U.S. Patent Application No. 09/956,997:**

1. Response (24 pages); and
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Attorney Docket No. 47004.000172
Application No. 09/956,997

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Application Serial No.: 09/956,997

Attorney Docket No.: 47004.000172

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

William F. MANN et al.

Serial No.: 09/956,997

Filed: September 21, 2001

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Examiner: Kambiz ABDI

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AMENDMENT

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Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated April 7, 2005, reconsideration of the above-identified application is requested based on the remarks and amendments as set forth below.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2.

A listing of the amended claims begins on page 3.

Remarks begin on page 14.